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# FOLK CAMPS PARTY BAND

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***“ One of the best adverts for Folk Camps that I can think of !”***

## **The story so far.....**

Following last years success, the summer of 2019 was set to be a good season for the Folk Camps Party Band.

With ceilidhs lined up at 4 major festivals as well as workshop opportunities and a major circuit ceilidh we were pleased that we have managed to make a success of the band in a very short space of time. To be asked to return for a repeat appearance at this years at Chippenham Festival was particularly pleasing as it is very rare for bands to do this. The slots that we were invited to play were great for an up and coming band and, being daytime, they also allowed us to be in contact with families.



***“I adore every single moment playing and dancing with the team.....ridiculously inspiring.”***

I am delighted to report that the reception we received at all the festivals was again overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic.

***“great enthusiasm and a level of professionalism rarely seen these days”***

We have had very emotional responses not only from dancers and fellow musicians but also from festival organisers and callers. Individual reports of each festival can be seen on the monthly progress reports. **On the strength of our performances this summer we have now been invited back next year (2020) to headline on Saturday evenings of Chippenham, Towersey and Bromyard.** This is more of a step up than I had dared to hope for and means that next year we will be taking Folk Camps brand to a huge number of people through personal experience and exchange

***“refreshing to see young and old working together to make such a great sound”***

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In addition to the ceilidhs, the workshops which we ran at Towersey and Bromyard proved to be very popular and are a great way to promote Folk Camps. We used the opportunity to demonstrate the format of a typical morning workshop at camp, and having a captive audience means we were able to spend quite bit of time talking about Folk Camps. The atmosphere at the workshops was one of enthusiasm and excitement, with families and friends playing together and having fun. Many of the participants and even passers by showed a keen interest in Folk Camps with many asking for more information.

We have been asked to deliver two workshops at Bromyard next year and although nothing has been confirmed yet, we are in a much stronger position now to be able to negotiate workshops at other festivals in the future

***“to me (Folk Camps Party band ) is what folk music is all about”***



The huge Towersey workshop

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- As the reputation of the Folk Camps Party Band is growing we are now able to command a fee for our performances. Although we won't be able to completely cover costs we will be able to recover considerably more than originally estimated in our proposal for year 3.
  - Over the year the progression of all the players in the band has been noticeable. Rehearsing and performing obviously benefits the band as a whole and we are really starting to come together, but also there are several participants whose progress has been very gratifying to witness. There are definitely potential future Folk Camps musicians who are gaining experience and skills need to fulfil that role.
  - We have had a couple of issues with participants not feeling able to continue in the middle of the year which presented us with a difficult situation. However we have managed to draft in young Folk campers to cover the parts. This actually has given more young people an opportunity to take part. I know that both the 'emergency draftees' are now practising more and hope to have the opportunity to audition formally. Invitations for applying for these positions will be sent out to all Folk Campers if Council confirms their commitment to continue to support the project.
  - Spending time at festivals has allowed me and other band members to promote Folk Camps in a unique way. Face to face contact with a targeted audience has proved to be very successful in generating interest and enhancing the image of Folk Camps. T-shirts and stickers as well as fly posting have all helped to make the band and the Folk Camps brand more recognisable.
  - It is worth noting that the Chippenham ceilidh alone will attract between 700 - 1000 people.



*"I booked The Folk Camps Party Band for Towersey festival this year - primarily for the opening ceilidh on the Friday evening. However, they happily immersed themselves in the festival and ran various other events/workshops with great enthusiasm and a level of professionalism rarely seen these days.*

*I immediately asked them to come back in 2020, and I'm more than happy to recommend this talented bunch of people to any other festival across the UK. As an organisation, Folk Camps could not look for better ambassadors."*

Simon Care Towersey Festival Organiser and Renowned Musician

*"Just about the most exciting ceilidh band to arrive on the folk festival circuit this year! We need MORE!"*

Fee Lock Caller

*"The band is one of the best adverts for Folk Camps that I can think of! The only thing that I can fault FCPB for has been that adequacy and a can do attitude often replaces any attempt at excellence, and this band refutes that impeccably "*

Gordon Potts (Caller)

*Thank you so so much for having me as part of the band. I adore every single moment playing and dancing with the team and, on top of that, working with you and Andy is ridiculously inspiring. We are beyond lucky to have the two of you as the driving force behind the band, and no doubt everyone agrees..... the Party Band is really something else!!!*

(participant)

*I have very much enjoyed being part of the band; it's a privilege to work with all the talented musicians (young and not-so young), and watching dancers having so much fun to our music is always very satisfying.*

(Participant)

*"Lovely to see such a large, musically tight group of musicians performing all together It was refreshing to see young and old working together to make such a great sound and sharing the energy of what to me folk music is all about"*

Georgia Lewis (Caller Dancer musician)



